

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1829
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, CY
SUBJ: GOT EXPRESSES REGRET AT GOG CRITICISM OF ECEVIT

REF: ATHENS 3599

THE TURKISH MFA ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT MAY 5 IN
RESPONSE TO GOG CRITICISM OF PRIMIN ECEVIT'S PREVIOUS PUBLIC
REMARKS (REFTEL):

BEGIN TEXT:

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOTED WITH SURPRISE AND
PROFOUND REGRET THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
GREECE ABOUT THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT
HELD IN ANKARA ON MAY 2, 1978. IN ITS STATEMENT THE GREEK
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GOVERNMENT ACCUSES PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT OF BEING
'PROVOCATIVELY INTRASIGENT' AIMING AT THE 'CREATION OF TENSION'.

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE PRIME MINISTERS OF
TURKEY AND GREECE MET AS A RESULT OF THE PEACEFUL INITIATIVE
OF MR. ECEVIT IN MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND, ON MARCH 11-12,
1978. IT WAS AGREED AT THIS MEETING -- WHICH WAS DESCRIBED

BY BOTH SIDES AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR RELATIONS --
THAT THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF TURKEY AND GREECE WOULD MEET IN APRIL TO PREPARE
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS. IT WAS OFFICIALLY
ANNOUNCED ON THE SAME DAY IN ANKARA AND ATHENS THAT THE
MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL WOULD BE HELD ON APRIL 14-15,
1978. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE SUMMIT
WAS POSTPONED AT THE LAST MOMENT BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.
SINCE THEN, GREECE HAS REFRAINED FROM SETTING A NEW DATE
FOR THIS MEETING.

FURTHERMORE, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ITS POLICY STATEMENTS, HAS SUPPORTED THE TURKISH CYPRIOT
ADMINISTRATION IN PUTTING FORWARD PROPOSALS ON BOTH TERRITORIAL
AND CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION FOR THE
RESUMPTION, WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, OF CONSTRUCTIVE AND
MEANINGFUL INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN SPITE OF THESE PROPOSALS OF THE
TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE, WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AS BEING "CONCRETE
AND SUBSTANTIAL' BY DR. KURT WALDHEIM, THE GREEK CYPRIOT
SIDE HAS REJECTED THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDER-
STAND HOW THE FACTUAL STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT
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COULD POSSIBLY BE DESCRIBED AS BEING 'PROVOCATIVE' OR
'INTRANSIGENT'.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT STILL EARNESTLY HOPES THAT
THE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE CREATED AND THE PROMISING HIGH-LEVEL
DIALOGUE INITIATED AT MONTREUX WILL BE MAINTAINED. FURTHERMORE,
THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT ITS PEACEFUL
AND CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES WILL RECEIVE POSITIVE RESPONSES FROM
GREECE". END TEXT SPIERS

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